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## Work and Workers

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AN interesting demand for the teaching of Hebrew in the public schools has recently been presented to members of the Board of Education of Chicago, by groups of Jewish citizens.

THE Bible Study Secretaries of the Young Men's Christian Association have this year undertaken the organization of Bible classes for members of college and university faculties. It is hoped that such classes, conducted by representative professors, will result in quickening the religious interest of faculty men. The secretaries report the holding of more than fifty Bible institutes for students in different parts of the country during the past year.

THE American Committee for Lectures on the History of Religions has secured Professor Franz Cumont, Ph.D., as the lecturer for this season. He is the leading authority on Mithraism, on which he has published a monumental work presenting and interpreting the texts and monuments bearing on this remarkable mystic cult, which in the early centuries of our era was a serious rival to Christianity. A popular and briefer work of his on the subject has been translated into English under the title *The Mysteries of Mithra*. Professor Cumont's chief field of investigation, however, has been in the history of astrology and more particularly in the bearings of astrology on Greek, Roman, and oriental religions. He has collaborated in the cataloguing of the Greek astrological codices, and has made special journeys of exploration to Asia Minor in order to study the formation of religious movements in that district on the spot. His lectures in America deal with the general subject of "Astrology and Religion." They are being delivered at seven leading institutions. An unusual opportunity is therefore presented of hearing the leading authority on this subject give a popular exposition of the part played by astrology in the religions of the ancient Orient and of Greece and Rome. Professor Cumont was born in Alost in 1868. He studied at the universities of Bonn, Berlin, and Vienna in 1888-89 and at Athens, Rome, and Paris in 1890-92. He is a member of the Royal Academy of Belgium, a corresponding member of the French Academy and of the royal academies of Berlin, Munich, and Göttingen. Until his resignation in 1910, Professor Cumont was professor of the Greek language and literature at the University of Ghent. He is one of the Curators of the Royal Museum of Brussels.